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EFFECTIVE FUNCTIONING OF HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS: NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND REGIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

Regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights in the Asian and Pacific region

Report of the Secretary-General submitted in accordance with Commission resolution 2000/74

GE.01-12137 (E)

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Introduction

1. In its resolution 2000/74, the Commission on Human Rights requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission at its fifty-seventh session a report containing the conclusions of the Ninth Workshop on Regional Cooperation for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in the Asian and Pacific Region and information on the progress achieved in implementing the resolution. The present report is submitted in accordance with that request.

2. One of the fundamental objectives of the United Nations is to promote universal respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms. The United Nations has consistently promoted regional cooperation in the Asian and Pacific region for the achievement of this objective, inter alia through the consideration of possible regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights. The General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights have adopted numerous resolutions in this regard. The World Conference on Human Rights reaffirmed the fundamental role that regional and subregional arrangements could play in promoting and protecting human rights.

3. Pursuant to the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Commission, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, within the framework of the programme of technical cooperation and advisory services in the field of human rights, organized in 1982 a seminar in Colombo and, more recently, nine workshops for the Asian and Pacific region, in cooperation with the host Governments, in Manila in 1990, Jakarta in 1993, Seoul in 1994, Kathmandu in 1996, Amman in 1997, Tehran in 1998, New Delhi in 1999, Beijing in 2000 and Bangkok in 2001.

4. Through these workshops, a consensus has been reached on the principles and a "step-by-step", "building-blocks" approach involving extensive consultation among Governments of the region, concerning the possible establishment of regional arrangements.

5. The Amman workshop concluded, inter alia, that the sharing of information and the development and strengthening of national capacities for the promotion and protection of human rights are crucial in the step-by-step process of establishing regional human rights arrangements. The workshop also strongly recommended that a regional technical cooperation programme be designed and implemented as a matter of urgent priority.

6. The Tehran workshop carried this process forward and adopted for the first time agreed conclusions. Underlining its commitment to developing and strengthening national capacities for the promotion and protection of human rights through regional cooperation and sharing of experiences, the workshop adopted a framework for regional technical cooperation in the Asian and Pacific region. The Tehran Framework identified States commitments to four regional priorities: national plans of action for the promotion and protection of human rights and the strengthening of national capacities; human rights education; national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights; and strategies for the realization of the right to development and economic, social and cultural rights.

7. The New Delhi workshop reviewed progress since Tehran in the four priority areas of the Framework for Regional Technical Cooperation in the Asian and Pacific Region and identified the next steps to be taken. The workshop decided to convene inter-sessional workshops addressing issues under each of the four areas of the Tehran Framework and welcomed the decision of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to allocate funds for the projects foreseen within the Framework.

8. Participants at the Beijing workshop reviewed progress achieved in the four areas identified in the Teheran Framework for Regional Technical Cooperation and identified possible next steps. The conclusions adopted during the Beijing meeting affirmed the importance of the implementation of the technical cooperation programme as one of the key components of the promotion of human rights in the region. Member States emphasized the importance of undertaking activities under the Framework at national and subregional levels with the assistance of the concerned Governments, national institutions and civil society. The Beijing Conclusions also noted that within each area of the Framework, attention should be paid to the promotion and protection of the rights of women, children and vulnerable groups. Parliaments, national institutions and civil society groups were invited to participate in the development and implementation of the Framework.

9. The Beijing Conclusions also endorsed a Plan of Action to be implemented over a two-year period. The activities mentioned include: finalizing and distributing the handbook on national human rights action plans to key beneficiaries; conducting a survey on human rights education; studying non-formal human rights education; organizing a meeting of the Asia-Pacific Forum on the role of national institutions in combating racism; providing training on protection approaches by national institutions; convening a workshop on the impact of globalization; and holding a regional preparatory meeting on the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance. In addition, participants at the Beijing meeting recommended convening several workshops and other activities to bring together key experts and professional groups at the subregional level.

I. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TWO-YEAR PLAN OF ACTION ADOPTED AT THE EIGHTH WORKSHOP ON REGIONAL COOPERATION FOR THE PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE ASIAN AND PACIFIC REGION

A. National human rights plans of action and national capacity-building

1. Regional level

10. The draft handbook on national human rights action plans was distributed among participants at the Ninth Workshop on Regional Cooperation for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in the Asian and Pacific Region, held in Bangkok from 2 February to 23 March 2000. The handbook will be widely distributed among non-governmental organizations and national institutions in the Asian-Pacific region upon its finalization in 2001.

2. Subregional level

11. The Inter-sessional Subregional North-East Asia Workshop on Parliamentarians and Human Rights was hosted by the State Great Hural (Parliament) of Mongolia from 9 to 11 August 2000. It was jointly organized by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU). It was the first event organized by both organizations within the framework of the memorandum of understanding signed by them in July 1999.

12. Parliamentarians from Mongolia, China, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Republic of Korea and Japan participated in the workshop. Representatives of Governments of the Asian-Pacific region, United Nations agencies and NGOs attended as observers.

13. The workshop was chaired by Mr. S. Tumur, Chairperson of the State Great Hural Human Rights Subcommittee and co-chaired by Dr. Sanaasurengin Oyun, member of the State Great Hural. The Speaker of the State Great Hural, the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Assistant Secretary-General of the IPU and the United Nations Resident Coordinator a.i. made opening statements. The High Commissioner's Regional Adviser on International Human Rights Standards for the Asian and Pacific Region and the IPU Assistant Secretary-General made concluding remarks. The workshop addressed the following nine themes:

1. Parliaments and their members as guardians of human rights.

2. Human rights and legislation.

3. Parliaments and human rights treaties.

4. Human rights in the structure of parliament.

5. Parliaments and national planning for the promotion and protection of human rights.

6. Parliamentary oversight and human rights.

7. Roles of individual parliamentarians in the promotion and protection of human rights in parliament and in their constituencies.

8. The role of parliaments in addressing thematic human rights issues: a case study on the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

9. United Nations: a partner for parliamentarians in the promotion and protection of human rights.

14. The resource persons, in their presentations, as well as the participants in the debates, affirmed the vital role of parliaments and their members for the promotion and protection of human rights. Particular emphasis was put on the parliamentary oversight function as an

essential tool enabling parliaments and their members, on the one hand, to ensure that national law complied with international human rights norms and, on the other hand, to ensure compliance in practice, on the part of the Government and the administration, with international and human rights norms. Moreover, participants provided insights into their national experience in the field of human rights and also referred to the problems they were facing and the mechanisms set up by their parliaments to address them.

15. The workshop was not intended to adopt any common position or recommendations, but rather to allow for an exchange of experience and views and to enhance participants' knowledge of international human rights norms and principles and of parliamentary tools available to put them into practice.

B. Human rights education

16. Activities relating to human rights education are described in document A/55/360 (see E/CN.4/2001/90).

17. As a result of the mid-term global evaluation of the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education (1995-2004), a database providing information on organizations, materials and programmes for human rights education was launched at the Web site of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (http://www.unhchr.ch/hredu.nsf).

18. A subregional workshop for judges on the justiciability of economic, social and cultural rights will be held in India in July 2001.

C. National human rights institutions

19. Activities relating to human rights institutions are described in document E/CN.4/2001/99.

1. Regional level

20. The fifth Annual Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions was held in New Zealand in August 2000.

2. Subregional level

21. Two subregional workshops for national institutions were held during this period: a workshop on the role of national human rights institutions in advancing the rights of women (Fiji, May 2000) and a workshop on national institutions and economic, social and cultural rights (Philippines, November 2000).

D. Realization of the right to development and economic, social and cultural rights

1. Regional level

22. A workshop on the impact of globalization on the full enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights and the right to development will be held in Malaysia in May 2001.

2. Subregional level

23. From 6 to 9 March 2001, representatives from the Governments of Kiribati, the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia and Palau met in Majuro, Marshall Islands, to review the contents of the principal international human rights treaties and to discuss the implications of their ratification. The meeting was organized through a joint programme of OHCHR and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) entitled "Human rights strengthening" (HURIST), which aims at mainstreaming human rights in the programmes of UNDP and supporting its human rights work.

24. The representatives were aided in their discussions by international and regional human rights experts, specialized staff from the United Nations and representatives of regional governmental and non-governmental organizations.

25. The participants adopted recommendations which include the need for OHCHR to pay attention to the specific concerns of the Pacific island countries and to provide technical assistance in the areas of institutional strengthening and capacity-building, and legislative review. The participants directed a number of recommendations to their Governments, including for the formulation of national human rights action plans, prioritization of ratification of the international human rights treaties, provision of training on the norms contained in the treaties, translation of the treaties into local languages, as well as giving added importance to human rights on the agenda of regional organizations such as the Pacific Islands Forum and the Pacific Community.

E. National level: related activities

26. At the national level, OHCHR, under its technical cooperation programme, has carried out activities in the region which contribute to the promotion of the four regional priorities identified in the Tehran Framework for Technical Cooperation in the Asian and Pacific Region. In particular, OHCHR undertook activities in Bhutan, Cambodia, China, East Timor, Indonesia, Nepal, Mongolia, the occupied Palestinian territory and the Philippines. Needs assessment missions were also fielded to the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Solomon Islands. In some cases these activities were implemented by OHCHR field presences, as in Cambodia, Indonesia, Mongolia and the occupied Palestinian territory. In East Timor, OHCHR provides substantive support to the human rights programme of the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET). In Afghanistan, OHCHR supports the work of the human rights officer within the Office of the Humanitarian Coordinator.

II. NINTH WORKSHOP ON REGIONAL COOPERATION FOR THE PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE ASIAN AND PACIFIC REGION

27. The objectives of the workshop were:

(a) To review progress achieved since the Beijing Workshop (March 2000), in the four areas identified in the Tehran Framework for Technical Cooperation. In particular the workshop:

(i) Reviewed the results of the inter-sessional workshops on:

The role of national human rights institutions in advancing the rights of women, Fiji, May 2000;

Human rights for parliamentarians, Mongolia, August 2000;

Annual meeting of the Asia-Pacific Forum on National Human Rights Institutions, New Zealand, August 2000;

National institutions and economic, social and cultural rights, Philippines, November 2000;

(ii) Took stock of national, subregional and regional initiatives within the four areas identified in the Tehran Framework for Technical Cooperation, with the focus on the national level;

(iii) Reviewed the evaluation report as entrusted by OHCHR to Professor Vitit Muntarbhorn on the implementation by OHCHR of activities under the Tehran Framework in the 1998-2000 period;

(b) To have an initial discussion on possible regional or subregional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights in the Asian-Pacific region and to take stock of ongoing initiatives in this regard;

(c) To further enhance partnerships for the implementation of the Tehran Framework for Technical Cooperation.

28. In preparation for the workshop, an open-ended team, comprising Geneva-based representatives of interested Member States from the region, held two consultative meetings in Geneva, after which invitations to the workshop were sent to States of the region, national institutions which are members of the Asia-Pacific Forum, and non-governmental organizations active in the region and in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council; United Nations and other intergovernmental organizations and agencies were invited to participate as observers. In addition, United Nations and other international agencies and embassies in Bangkok were invited to attend as observers. Resource persons were identified to make presentations at the workshop.

29. The workshop was attended by representatives from the following 33 Governments: Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Cyprus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Japan, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Marshall Islands, Mongolia, Nepal, New Zealand, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Viet Nam and Yemen. A representative of Palestine also attended. Of the seven national institutions from the region which are members of the Asia-Pacific Forum, four participated in the workshop, together with a representative of the Asia-Pacific Forum. A number of NGOs participated as observers, as did representatives of United Nations agencies.

Proceedings

30. The workshop was opened by Dr. Surakiart Sathirathai, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Thailand, and Mrs. Mary Robinson, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. The workshop was divided into six substantive sessions:

1. Human rights education.

2. National institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights.

3. National plans of action for the promotion and protection of human rights and the strengthening of national human rights capacities.

4. Strategies for the realization of the right to development and economic, social and cultural rights.

5. Review of the recommendations of Professor Vitit Muntarbhorn, as part of his evaluation of OHCHR's implementation of the Tehran Framework (1998-2000).

6. Initial discussion on possible regional or subregional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights in the Asia-Pacific Forum.

7. Tehran framework for Technical Cooperation: conclusions.

Conclusions

31. The workshop adopted conclusions, the text of which is annexed to this report. The conclusions affirm the importance of the implementation of technical cooperation in the Asian and Pacific region pursuant to the Framework for Regional Technical Cooperation established at Tehran and recognize the close relationship and mutually supporting nature of the four pillars of the Framework.

32. The conclusions note that the implementation of the Beijing Plan of Action is the responsibility of all States in the region and call on States to take concrete steps, as appropriate, at the national level in connection with the implementation of the Tehran Framework. In this regard, participants at the workshop welcomed the participation of parliaments, the judiciary,

national institutions and civil society, as appropriate, in the development and implementation of the Framework and called on OHCHR to establish, whenever possible, partnerships with these actors in the implementation of the Framework. The importance that regional workshops undertaken within the Framework be accompanied by concrete and sustainable subregional and national activities, as well as by training and awareness programmes for government officials and key professional groups such as the police, prison officials, educators, judges, lawyers, and parliamentarians, was also recognized.

33. While noting that the Tehran Framework is mainly a governmental process, the conclusions acknowledge the importance of participation by national institutions, non-governmental organizations and intergovernmental organizations. In this context, the conclusions acknowledge the initiative to hold a consultation of non-governmental actors one day previous to the official opening of the workshop, as well as the reports of this meeting to the plenary.

34. The conclusions take note of the discussions on possible regional or subregional modalities for cooperation for the promotion and protection of human rights in the Asian-Pacific region as part of an inclusive, step-by-step, practical and building-blocks approach, as well as the evaluation undertaken by Professor Muntarbhorn, at the request of OHCHR, of the implementation of the Tehran Framework.

Annex

CONCLUSIONS OF THE NINTH WORKSHOP ON REGIONAL COOPERATION FOR THE PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE ASIAN-PACIFIC REGION

Bangkok, 28 February - 2 March 2001

Representatives of Governments of the Asian-Pacific region,

Participating, together with representatives of the national human rights institutions and non-governmental organizations attending as observers, in the Ninth Workshop on Regional Cooperation for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in the Asian-Pacific Region in Bangkok, from 28 February to 2 March 2001,

Recalling the important contributions made and conclusions adopted by previous workshops and, in particular, the Beijing Workshop held in 2000 and the inter-sessional workshops on the four areas identified under the Tehran Framework for Regional Technical Cooperation,

Reaffirming the universality, indivisibility, interdependence and interrelated nature of all human rights - civil, political, economic, social, cultural - and the right to development,

Recognizing that democracy, development and respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms are interdependent and mutually reinforcing,

Recalling that, according to the 1993 World Conference on Human Rights, the international community must treat all human rights globally in a fair and equal manner, on the same footing and with the same emphasis, and that while the significance of the national and regional particularities and various historical, cultural and religious backgrounds must be borne in mind, it is the duty of States, regardless of their political, economic and cultural systems to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Reaffirming that the primary focus for the promotion and protection of human rights is at the national level, and that therefore it is the primary responsibility of States to ensure that human rights are promoted and protected,

Committed to enhancing regional and international cooperation to promote universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Mindful of the vastness of and diversities within the Asian-Pacific region,

Reiterating the importance of an inclusive, step-by-step, practical, building-blocks approach towards enhancing regional cooperation for the promotion and protection of human rights,

Affirming the importance of the implementation of technical cooperation in the Asian-Pacific region pursuant to the Framework for Regional Cooperation established at Tehran, with the support of the international community, including through the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights, as one of the key components of the promotion of human rights in the Asian-Pacific region,

Having reviewed the progress achieved so far in implementing the Tehran Framework for Regional Cooperation,

Having had an initial discussion on possible subregional and regional modalities for the promotion and protection of human rights in the region,

Hereby,

1. Express appreciation to the Government of Thailand for hosting this workshop and for the statement made by Dr. Surakiat Sathirathai, the Foreign Minister;

2. Welcome the participation of Ms. Mary Robinson, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, in the Bangkok workshop, as well as her statement;

3. Welcome the participation of H.E. Mr. Shambu Simkhada, Chairman of the fifty-sixth session of the Commission on Human Rights;

4. Express appreciation to the Governments, national institutions, experts, representatives of civil society and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights for the implementation of the proposals made at the Beijing workshop;

With regard to national human rights plans of action and national capacity building:

5. Recognize that national human rights action plans can significantly contribute to improving the realization of all human rights, including the right to development and economic, social and cultural rights;

6. Also recognize that national human rights action plans can advance human rights education and redress racism and racial discrimination;

7. Reaffirm the desirability of developing national human rights plans of action and doing so in a participatory and comprehensive way and encourage States to consider taking steps in this regard;

8. Recognize the value of regional cooperation in sharing useful practices and methodologies in the development of national human rights action plans and capacity building;

9. Take note of those States that are already implementing national human rights plans of action and of the efforts of those States which are in the process of developing national human rights plans of action;

10. Encourage Governments and national institutions to incorporate into national human rights action plans and other relevant national plans the human rights of all vulnerable groups;

11. Take note of the subregional workshop on human rights and parliamentarians held in Mongolia, as well as the involvement of the Inter-Parliamentary Union;

12. Take note of the draft handbook on national human rights plans of action, prepared by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights;

With regard to human rights education:

13. Recognize that human rights education can play a positive role in enhancing respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, and can contribute to the promotion of human rights and sustainable development and the prevention of human rights violations;

14. Take note of the recommendations of the mid-term review of the Decade for Human Rights Education;

15. Recognize, in this regard, the desirability of including human rights education as a component of national development plans and of other relevant national plans of action;

16. Encourage Governments to promote the development of national strategies for human rights education which are comprehensive, participatory, effective and sustainable;

17. Acknowledge the important role that non-governmental actors, including national human rights institutions, the media and non-governmental organizations, can play in furthering human rights education;

18. Recognize that human rights education for all those involved in the administration of justice may be regarded as one of the priorities in the countries of the region and that priority should also be given to meeting the human rights education needs of local government officials, community leaders, legal and paralegal service providers, rural populations and illiterate people, women and girls and vulnerable groups;

19. Invite States in the region to share their experiences on good practices for human rights education at the Tenth Workshop;

With regard to National Human Rights Institutions:

20. Welcome the establishment and further strengthening of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights in many countries of the Asian-Pacific region, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 48/134;

21. Reaffirm that national human rights institutions should be established following an appropriate and inclusive process of consultation and be independent, pluralistic and based on universal human rights standards;

22. Request the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, in consultation with States and in collaboration with national institutions and/or similar specialized institutions, to promote national projects, regional networks and financial and technical assistance that will accelerate this process;

23. Encourage the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to further develop cooperation with the Asia-Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions;

24. Note the implementation of, and substantive reports and conclusions relating to, the three workshops concerning national institutions and the promotion and protection of women's human rights (Fiji, 5-7 May 2000) the second national institutions training course on economic, social and cultural rights (Philippines, 5-11 November 2000) and the fifth Annual Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (New Zealand, 6-8 August 2000);

25. Encourage national institutions and similar specialized institutions to bear in mind the gender perspective and to identify a focal point for women's rights and issues for the effective promotion and protection of their human rights;

26. Note with appreciation the financial contributions made by several Governments to support the High Commissioner in her efforts to assist the creation or strengthening of national human rights institutions;

27. Welcome the offer of the Sri Lankan Human Rights Commission to host the sixth Annual Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions and requests the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to provide adequate support to the Meeting;

With regard to the realization of the right to development and economic, social and cultural rights:

28. Reaffirm that the human person is the central subject of development and that development policy should make the human being the main participant and beneficiary of development;

29. Reaffirm that development is a comprehensive economic, social, cultural and political process, which aims at the constant improvement of the well-being of the entire population and of all individuals on the basis of their active, free and meaningful participation in development and in the fair distribution of benefits resulting therefrom;

30. Affirm their commitment to promoting an approach to development emphasizing policies and actions based on the principles of participation, accountability, non-discrimination and empowerment and guided by the internationally agreed standards of human rights;

31. Reaffirm their commitment to developing and strengthening national capacities, in accordance with national conditions and national needs, for the realization of economic, social and cultural rights and the right to development;

32. Recognize the importance of good governance at the national and international levels to ensure that human rights are protected, freedoms respected and development resources properly and efficiently utilized for implementing the right to development;

33. Affirm that international peace and security are essential elements for the realization of economic, social and cultural rights and the right to development;

34. Recognize that poverty remains a major obstacle in the realization of the right to development and economic, social and cultural rights, and emphasize the need for action at national level and international cooperation to address this issue;

35. Encourage follow-up activities at the national, subregional and regional levels to regional initiatives concerning economic, social and cultural rights and the right to development;

36. Reaffirm that international cooperation is a necessity deriving from the recognized mutual interest of all countries and, therefore, that such cooperation should be strengthened in order to, inter alia, financially and technologically support the efforts of developing countries to solve their social and economic problems and to assist them, wherever possible, in the fulfilment of their obligations with regard to the promotion and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms;

37. Encourage Governments and national institutions to pay greater attention to the economic, social and cultural rights of women, including to shelter, food, water, primary education and primary health care;

With regard to the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance:

38. Express appreciation to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran for hosting the Asian regional preparatory meeting (19-21 February 2001) for the World Conference and take note of the resulting Declaration and Plan of Action;

39. Express profound concern at, and unequivocal condemnation of, all forms of racism and racial discrimination, including acts of racially motivated violence, xenophobia and related intolerance, as well as propaganda activities and organizations which attempt to justify or promote racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance in any form;

40. Welcome the active involvement of national institutions and representatives of civil society as observers at the World Conference;

41. Urge the World Conference to recognize that national plans of action, human rights education and national institutions are fundamental instruments for combating racism and related forms of discrimination and to consider ways in which these instruments can better address such issues, with particular attention paid to all vulnerable groups in society;

Participants at the Bangkok Workshop thus:

42. Recognize the close relationship between and mutually supporting nature of the four pillars of the Framework for Regional Cooperation for the Asian and Pacific Region and call on member States of the region to take concrete steps, as appropriate, at the national level in connection with the implementation of the Tehran Framework;

43. Take note of the discussions on possible regional or subregional modalities for cooperation for the promotion and protection of human rights in the Asian-Pacific region as part of an inclusive, step-by-step, practical and building-blocks approach;

44. Take note of the evaluation undertaken by Professor Vitit Muntarbhorn, at the request of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, of the implementation of the Tehran Framework;

45. Recognize that regional workshops undertaken within the Framework for Regional Cooperation for the Asian and Pacific Region should be accompanied by concrete and sustainable subregional and national activities, as well as by training and awareness programmes for government officials and key professional groups such as the police, prison officials, educators, judges, lawyers and parliamentarians;

46. Acknowledge, while noting that the Tehran Framework is mainly a governmental process, the importance of participation by national institutions, non-governmental organizations and intergovernmental organizations, the initiative to hold a consultation of non-governmental actors prior to the official opening of the workshop, and their reports to the plenary, and call on the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to establish, whenever possible, partnerships with these actors in the implementation of the Tehran Framework;

47. Note that the implementation of the Beijing Plan of Action adopted at the Eighth Workshop on Regional Cooperation for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in the Asian-Pacific Region is the responsibility of all States in the region and welcome the proposal made by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to continue the implementation of the activities under the Tehran Framework in close cooperation with regional, subregional and national partners and, in this regard, welcome the forthcoming workshops on the justiciability of economic, social and cultural rights and on the impact of globalization on the right to development and economic, social and cultural rights;

48. Welcome the efforts of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in developing partnerships for implementation of its activities under the Tehran Framework which are enhancing national capacities for the promotion and protection of human rights in the region;

49. Welcome the participation of parliaments, the judiciary, national institutions and civil society, as appropriate, in the development and implementation of the Framework for Regional Cooperation for the Asian and Pacific Region;

50. Invite States to host inter-sessional subregional workshops under the Beijing Plan of Action and welcome the offer made by the Australian Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission to host the workshop for national institutions on human rights education and the media;

51. Encourage the dissemination, as appropriate, among relevant government agencies and institutions and other partners at national, subregional and regional levels of the results of the present workshop and the strengthening of joint efforts towards the implementation of its conclusions;

52. Call upon the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to report on progress achieved in the implementation of technical cooperation in the Asian-Pacific region in accordance with the Framework of Cooperation to the next annual workshop.